



March 21, 2003

General Bell sends: Hostilities Begin

Our great Nation and our Coalition allies have launched a military operation to disarm Iraq of its weapons of mass destruction, and remove its brutal dictator Saddam Hussein from power; thus returning Iraq to the family of peaceful nations. Today, thousands of brave Americans are decisively engaged in, or are supporting difficult combat operations. Our soldiers' sacrifices are great. These patriots need and deserve our spiritual support. Our thoughts and prayers are with each of them and their families. Here at home there is potential for acts of terror. We all know this. I have confidence in our host nation law enforcement. I have equal confidence in our military force protection measures. Our commitment to protect you is total. Force Protection Level Charlie is in effect. Report anything suspicious to your chain of command or police authorities. Together, we will win this war and our soldiers will return home. Our nation has committed America's sons and daughters to battle and we will prevail. God bless each and every USAREUR soldier, civilian and family member, and God bless the United States of America.

/s/ B. B. BELL General, USA Commanding

